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Committee on Relations with the Host Country

Letter dated 21 September 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Chair of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

I have the honour to address you in your capacity as Chair of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country and to forward a copy of the note verbale dated 11 September 2015 from the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the United States Mission to the United Nations (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be brought to the attention of the members of the Committee and be circulated as a document of the Committee.

(*Signed*) Vitaly **Churkin**

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Annex to the letter dated 21 September 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Chair of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

Note verbale dated 11 September 2015 from the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the United States Mission to the United Nations

The Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United States Mission to the United Nations and expresses its strong protest regarding the decision of the United States Administration to deny participation to the Chair of the Council of the Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, Valentina Matvienko, in the events held under the auspices of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in New York from 31 August to 2 September 2015.

The Permanent Mission reiterates that, in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome, Heads of State and Government resolved to strengthen further cooperation between the United Nations and national parliaments through their world organization, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in all fields of the work of the United Nations.

The Permanent Mission also reiterates that IPU holds observer status in the General Assembly. A high level of cooperation between the United Nations and IPU has been regularly confirmed in Assembly resolutions, including 52/7, 53/13 and 54/12. These resolutions attest to the great importance that the Assembly has been consistently attributing to IPU events, including the World Conference of Speakers of Parliament.

General Assembly resolution 68/272 was adopted by consensus on 19 May 2014 with a view to further strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and IPU. In paragraph 5 thereof, the General Assembly envisaged holding the Fourth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament "at United Nations Headquarters in New York as part of the series of high-level meetings in 2015". This demonstrates not only the close link between IPU and the United Nations but also the clear intention of the Assembly to consider this particular IPU event as part of "official United Nations business" within the meaning of section 11 of the agreement between the United Nations and the United States regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations.

In this regard, actions by the authorities of the United States in respect of Mrs. Matvienko contradict the obligations borne by the United States as the host country of the United Nations and go against the resolutions of the General Assembly on cooperation between the United Nations and IPU, adopted with the support of the United States. Denial of the right to participate in the work of IPU to parliamentarians, in particular the speakers of parliaments, impairs the right of the Assembly to independently choose partners for dialogue in order to discuss any matters within the scope of the Charter of the United Nations, affecting the functioning of the United Nations system as a whole.

Obstruction by the United States of the inter-parliamentary dialogue, the work of universal inter-parliamentary organizations and their cooperation with the

General Assembly runs counter to the duty of States to cooperate with each other in accordance with the Charter, which is enshrined in the 1970 Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.